

So, with that, I want to once again thank my colleague and urge the House to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1727, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING A REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR HOMICIDE VICTIMS

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 757) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 757

Whereas homicide is a devastating epidemic in this Nation, destroying families and communities;

Whereas women are disproportionately victims of homicide perpetrated by intimate partners;

Whereas intimate partner homicide is the leading cause of death for African-American women ages 15-45;

Whereas, on average, 3 women per day are murdered by their current or former husbands or partners and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finds that women experience 2,000,000 injuries from intimate partner violence each year;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the cost of intimate partner violence exceeded \$5,800,000,000 in 2003;

Whereas, for the years 1976 to 2005 combined, among all homicide victims, females were particularly at risk for intimate killings and sex-related homicides, with 64.8 percent of all female homicide victims during that time being murdered by an intimate partner;

Whereas one-third of all murdered females are victims of intimate partner homicide annually, with separated females having the highest homicide rate;

Whereas intimate partner violence resulted in 1,544 deaths in 2004, and of those deaths, 25 percent were males and 75 percent were females;

Whereas the time that a victim of domestic violence leaves a violent situation is the most dangerous time for a victim and increases his or her likelihood of becoming a victim of homicide;

Whereas homicide is the second leading cause of traumatic death for pregnant women and recently pregnant women, accounting for nearly 31 percent of maternal injury deaths;

Whereas numerous agencies across this country provide support to the families of homicide victims and the tireless work of agency staff and volunteers is worthy of acknowledgment; and

Whereas victims of domestic violence-related homicides should be remembered during the National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims to honor their memories: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims; and

(2) acknowledges the epidemic of intimate partner homicide in this Nation, its disproportionate impact on women, and the work of agencies across this country to address this epidemic and provide support and resources to all survivors of victims of homicide, including the families of intimate partner homicide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHIFF. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution expresses support for the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims.

On Friday, September 25, 2009, the third annual observance of the National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims was held in Washington, D.C., and across the country. This year's observance was organized by the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center.

Every year, families lose loved ones to senseless acts of violence. Along with their loved ones, these families lose hopes and dreams for the future. Not only are mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers affected by the sudden loss of a family member, the lives of friends, coworkers, and neighbors can also be changed forever.

In 2008 alone, over 14,000 individuals lost their lives as a result of violent homicide. Over half of these murder victims were killed by acquaintances, such as a neighbor, friend, or boyfriend.

After the initial shock, as friends and neighbors resume their daily lives, family members are left to deal with their grief and loss and become overwhelmed with picking up the pieces of their lives.

The National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims acknowledges the long-term trauma families and friends experience after a loved one is murdered and focuses on the importance of providing support, guidance, and counseling to survivors of homicide.

While families deal with their grief, they're also confronted with trying to find some sense of justice through the criminal justice system. The complex-

ities and delays in resolving a criminal case frequently add to their feelings of anger and resentment.

The National Day of Remembrance sends a powerful message to these families and friends alike that we as a Nation remember their loss, honor their courage, and are committed to helping them move on with their lives.

The National Day of Remembrance reminds us that murder impacts each and every one of us and every community across the country. This day also reminds us to rededicate ourselves to working to prevent the violence that destroys lives and devastates families.

I'd like to thank the lead cosponsors of this resolution, DONNA EDWARDS of Maryland and TED POE of Texas, for their leadership in making sure that last week's National Day of Remembrance is honored by Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 757 honors a National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims. Sadly, thousands of lives are lost due to homicide every year in our Nation. Surviving parents, spouses, family, and friends courageously rebuild their lives while searching for answers and closure for the tragic death of someone they cared about.

I want to commend my friend, the gentlelady from Maryland, DONNA EDWARDS, for introducing this resolution. She has a long-time history of working with victims and victims' families, even before she came to our institution, the House of Representatives.

This National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims honors the lives of those who are lost to murder. It also commits communities, agencies, and other groups towards the goal of rebuilding the survivors' lives and preventing these tragedies in the future.

Since 2000, more than 114,000 Americans have been murdered in our Nation. It is important we remind survivors, family survivors, that we have not forgotten their loved ones and that they are not alone.

The broad bipartisan support for this day of remembrance demonstrates that we are united in our commitment to comfort sufferers and prevent the violence that leads to these tragedies.

This resolution also brings attention to the disturbing issue of spousal or partner abuse in homicides. On average, three women per day are murdered by their current or former husbands. From 1976 to 2005, more than 64 percent of female homicide victims in the United States were murdered by an intimate partner.

According to the National Institute of Justice, intimate partner homicide has declined significantly in the past 25 years. The NIJ cautions, however, that although these declines are truly significant, the statistics may mask the

important fact that women are substantially more likely than men to be murdered by intimate partners.

Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance strengthens the resolve of agencies, communities, and families and people in our country against homicides in our Nation.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. At this time, I'm happy to yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maryland, Donna Edwards, the lead sponsor of the bill.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I would like to thank also my dear friend and colleague Chairman JOHN CONYERS for bringing this important resolution to the floor.

House Resolution 757, a National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims, recognizes the loss and the courage of homicide victims across this country, not just in 1 year but for the many years in which families, community members, take the time to rebuild their lives.

I'd also like to thank my colleague TED POE of Texas for taking the lead with me in making this resolution truly bipartisan in nature because, as we know, the question of homicide is not one that is partisan.

This resolution is about honoring those lives that have been lost to homicide. I particularly want to focus on the women and children who have lost their lives to intimate partner homicide in our country.

In my State of Maryland, at least 48 women and children lost their lives to intimate partner homicide in the period from July 2007 to July 2008. Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that three women per day are murdered by their current or former partner, boyfriend, or spouse.

Statistically, the most dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence is when she attempts to leave a violent relationship. From working firsthand with victims of domestic violence in shelters, in service programs, and as cofounder and executive director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, I know the statistic is true, and it's more than a statistic. It's reality for so many women and children.

So when people ask why doesn't she just leave, those of us who have done this work for a long time know exactly why, and it's because of the risk of death, not an imagined fear but a true risk.

Intimate partner violence is the second leading cause of traumatic death for pregnant women. The impact of witnessing domestic violence, especially the homicide of a parent, is devastating for children.

It is my hope that this resolution will begin a dialogue about intimate partner violence and progress to dis-

cussing and devising solutions to address this epidemic. Intimate partner violence is something that impacts all our communities, and I know there have been several cases of such violence where I live, and I am sure that's the case for every congressional district across this Nation.

This year, in my congressional district, a woman was shot, tragically, to death outside of her church in Silver Spring as she was going inside to worship on Sunday and other worshippers were gathered for the service.

In March 2003, Ernestine Bunn-Dyson, age 32, was shot to death in my hometown of Oxon Hill by her estranged husband less than 24 hours after he promised in court to leave her alone. Her sister is working hard to bring more attention to this epidemic so more people don't have to suffer and more sisters don't have to be victims.

It's so easy for people to think that intimate partner homicide is something that happens to someone else, someone who looks different, someone who has a different educational background, or someone who just fell in with the wrong person. But a victim of domestic violence and intimate partner violence and homicide can be anyone's sister, mother, aunt, friend, coworker, and of course, the other thousands of victims of homicide.

Our own Lieutenant Governor in Maryland, Anthony Brown, lost his cousin, Cathy Brown, to intimate partner violence just this past last summer. His cousin was shot and killed in her home by her abuser. Lieutenant Governor Brown has worked in Maryland along with Governor Martin O'Malley to make sure that our State laws were changed to prevent this kind of violent homicide.

So many survivors and their families in this country have turned their tragedy and pain to healing and advocacy. Our own Lieutenant Governor is an example of such tireless and selfless advocacy.

I ask all of us to take the time today to reach out to someone who may be in a violent situation and lend your support and friendship. It could save their lives. I also ask that we take this day to remember all victims of homicide, all victims of intimate partner homicide, and we must do what we can to stop this pattern at a young age. If other forms of abusive violence are included, from being threatened or emotionally abused, our young children suffer as well. We must be more aggressive in addressing the problem of violence so that it doesn't turn to homicide.

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I'd like to thank all of our cosponsors, and I'd like to say that, Mr. Speaker, it's time for us to recognize the tragic cost of homicide to all of our families, and for this Congress and this Nation to turn our attention to their support.

I'd like to recognize the many organizations who have supported this reso-

lution, including the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, the National Partnership for Women and Families, Legal Momentum, the Family Violence Prevention Fund, and our own local Anti-Violence Organization.

Mr. POE of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how many speakers my colleague from Texas has remaining.

Mr. POE of Texas. I am prepared to close. There are no other speakers.

Mr. SCHIFF. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume. This is, Mr. Speaker, a very important recognition that we do, as an organization, as a body, to recognize the fact that throughout this country there are families that have suffered the loss of someone they love and they care about, and it's all because of violence.

As my friend and colleague from Maryland, Ms. EDWARDS, has pointed out, many times that violence occurs in the home. It starts with verbal abuse, then physical abuse, and then sometimes results in a homicide. And of all places where a person should be safe in our country, it's in their home, whether it's a spouse or whether it's a child. And because of the epidemic, in my opinion, of violence in the home, more and more Americans and spouses especially, suffer those consequences and those consequences lead to their death by the hands of someone that claims they love them.

And it's important that we remember those people who are victims of crime. It's been said that when a murder occurs, the killer steals from the victim everything they were and everything they will be. That's the tragedy. And families of homicide victims never get over it. I know Mr. SCHIFF, in his experience in the U.S. Attorney's office, and my experience as a criminal court judge and prosecutor, families of homicide victims think about the death of their loved one every day. Not a day goes by that they don't think about it. And they think about it every day forever. That's the tragedy they live with.

So we, as a Nation, need to raise the awareness and the importance of these families and recognize that those people who have lost family members are Americans that need special recognition, special comfort from us.

So I commend my friend, Ms. EDWARDS from Maryland, for sponsoring this resolution. I am proud to be a co-author of this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I had the experience recently of being called up for jury duty in Los Angeles and called up for a criminal case and sat through really the entire voir dire process, which I hadn't done in many years. It was a murder case, and what was striking to me—I was not called into the box so I never became a juror—but

what was striking to me is, during the voir dire process, they asked each and every juror whether they thought they could sit fairly on the case before them.

This particular case involved two victims, two people who were murdered, one who was a 16-year-old girl. And it was striking to me, both how many prospective jurors had a family member or close friend who'd been the victim of violence, who had been murdered or raped, how many also who could so relate to the circumstances that they felt they couldn't be fair and impartial. But it was extraordinary. There wasn't a single person really in the jury box that hadn't been touched in some way by violent crime.

And I want to thank the gentlewoman from Maryland for her leadership on this issue and getting us all to take some time to reflect on how violence has touched all of our communities, all of our lives and how we can rededicate ourselves to trying to attack this incredible waste of life. So I thank you.

I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 757.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXEMPTING FROM CERTAIN PROHIBITIONS SHIPMENTS OF EXPLOSIVES TO INDIAN TRIBES

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1333) to amend chapter 40 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt the transportation, shipment, receipt, or importation of explosive materials for delivery to a federally recognized Indian tribe or an agency of such a tribe from various Federal criminal prohibitions relating to explosives, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1333

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION, SHIPMENT, RECEIPT, OR IMPORTATION OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS FOR DELIVERY TO A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBE OR AN AGENCY OF SUCH A TRIBE FROM VARIOUS FEDERAL CRIMINAL PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO EXPLOSIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 845(a)(3) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “to any agency of the United States or to any State or any political subdivision thereof” and inserting “to any agency of the United States, to any State or any political subdivision thereof, or to any federally recognized Indian tribe or agency thereof”.

(b) INDIAN TRIBE DEFINED.—Section 841 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(t) ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 479a).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHIFF. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1333 addresses the gap in the law governing the transportation of explosive materials by giving federally recognized Indian tribes the same status already given Federal, State and local governments. In 2002, Congress passed the Safe Explosives Act, which prohibits the transportation, shipment, receipt and importation of explosive materials without specific Federal permits or licenses.

The act exempts Federal, State and local governments from this requirement, but due to an oversight, the exemption does not cover federally recognized Indian tribes and their agencies. This bill corrects that oversight. Fireworks can play an integral role in the religious and cultural ceremonies of many Indian tribes. This bill will facilitate those religious and cultural practices without compromising safety. This act does not exempt Indian tribes from complying with safe storage requirements. Like State agencies, tribes still will be required to comply with Federal explosives storage regulations.

H.R. 1333 enjoys bipartisan support. I thank the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. RAÚL GRIJALVA, for bringing this oversight to the attention of the House and for his hard work on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1333 makes a simple technical correction to Federal law regulating the transportation and shipment of explosives to provide federally recognized Indian tribes the same exemption as Federal, State and local governments. Under current law the Federal, State, and local governments are exempt from permitting requirements for the purchase or shipment of explosive materials, including commercial fireworks.

Indian tribes, however, are not afforded the same exemption under our law. Fireworks have been a part of the practices of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Colorado River Indian Tribes of Arizona for many years. Some of these practices involve cultural and religious beliefs that are very important to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, for example.

However, these practices in recent years have been inhibited by the requirements of the Safe Explosive Act of 2002, called the SEA Act. The Safe Explosives Act significantly expanded the Federal explosive laws to include requirements that a license or permit be obtained in order to receive explosives. The SEA Act established background checks and expanded the categories of persons prohibited from possessing explosives. H.R. 1333 ensures that Indian tribes across the country will be able to carry on their same cultural and religious practices that they enjoyed with fireworks celebrations prior to the enactment of the permitting requirements.

It's important to protect the rituals of Native Americans and afford Indians tribes the same treatment under the law as Federal, State, and local governments currently enjoy.

So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Arizona, Mr. GRIJALVA, for his leadership on this issue and urge passage of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1333, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING DR. NORMAN E. BORLAUG

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 739) honoring the life and achievements of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug for his many contributions to alleviating world hunger.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 739

Whereas the United States honors Norman E. Borlaug as an Iowan, humanitarian, and father of the “Green Revolution”;

Whereas Dr. Borlaug was born on March 25, 1914, and grew up on a family farm outside Cresco, Iowa;